

S W A

- How soon doth man decay!
When cloths are taken from a chest of sweets,
To *swaddle* infants, whose young breath
Scarce knows the way;
Those clouts are little winding sheets,
Which do consign and fend them unto death. *Herbert.*
They *swaddled* me up in my night-gown with long pieces of
linen, till they had wrapt me in about an hundred yards of
swathe. *Addison.*
2. To beat; to cudgel. A low ludicrous word.
Great on the bench, great in the saddle,
That could as well bind o'er as *swaddle*. *Hindbrass.*
SWADDLE. *n. f.* [from the verb.] Cloaths bound round the
body.
I begged them to uncase me: no, no, say they; and upon
that carried me to one of their houses, and put me to bed in
all my *swaddies*. *Addison.*
- SWADDLINGBAND. *n. f.* [from *swaddle*.] Cloth wrapped
SWADDLINGCLOATH. *n. f.* round a new-born child.
From thence a fairy thee unwitting rest,
There as thou slept'st in tender *swaddlingband*,
And her bafe elfin brood, there for thee left,
Such men do changelings call, fo changed by fairies theft. *Fairy Queen.*
- That great baby you see there is not yet out of his *swaddling*-
clouts. *Shakespeare. Hamlet.*
The *swaddlingbands* were purple, wrought with gold. *Dryden.*
- TO SWAG. *v. n.* [Irish, Saxon; *swaigian*, Islandick.] To
sink down by its weight; to lay heavy.
They are more apt, in *swagging* down, to pierce with their
points, than in the jacent posture, and crevice the wall. *Hart.*
Being a tall fish, and with his sides much compressed, he
hath a long fin upon his back, and another answering to it on
his belly; by which he is the better kept upright, or from
swagging on his sides. *Grew.*
- TO SWAGE. *v. a.* [from *affuage*.] To ease; to soften; to in-
tigate.
Apt words have pow'r to *swage*
The tumours of a troubled mind,
And are as balm to fester'd wounds. *Milton.*
Nor wanting pow'r to mitigate and *swage*,
With solemn touches, troubled thoughts, and chafe
Anguish, and doubt, and fear from mortal minds. *Milton.*
I will love thee,
Though my distracted senses should forsake me,
I'd find some intervals, when my poor heart
Should *swage* itself, and be let loose to thine. *Ottway.*
- TO SWAGGER. *v. n.* [from *swaggeren*, Dutch, to make a noise;
Irish, Saxon.] To bluster; to bully; to be turbulently and
cumulatively proud and insolent.
Drunk? squabble? *swagger*? and discourse fullian with
one's own shadow? Oh thou invincible spirit of wine! *Shak.*
'Tis the gage of one that I should fight withal, if he be
alive; a rascal that *swagger'd* with me last night. *Shakespeare.*
Of a terrible oath, with a *swaggering* accent sharply twang'd
off, gives manhood more approbation than proof itself. *Shak.*
The lesser size of mortals love to *swagger* for opinions, and
to boast infallibility of knowledge. *Glavin. Scyth.*
Many such asses in the world huff, look big, stare, dress,
cock, and *swagger* at the fame noisy rate. *L'Estrange.*
He chuck'd,
And scarcely deign'd to let a foot to ground,
But *swagger'd* like a lord. *Dryden.*
Confidence, how weakly soever founded, hath some effect
upon the ignorant, who think there is something more than
ordinary in a *swaggering* man that talks of nothing but de-
monstration. *Tillotson.*
To be great, is not to be starched, and formal, and superci-
lious; to *swagger* at our footmen, and browbeat our infe-
riors. *Collier on Pride.*
What a pleasure is it to be victorious in a cause? to *swag-
ger* at the bar? for a lawyer I was born, and a lawyer I will
be. *Arbutnot's History of John Bull.*
- SWAGGERER. *n. f.* [from *swagger*.] A blusterer; a bully; a
turbulent noisy fellow.
He's no *swaggerer*, hostess; a tame cheater: you may stroke
him as gently as a puppy greyhound. *Shakespeare. Henry IV.*
- SWAGGY. *adj.* [from *swag*.] Dependent by its weight.
The beaver is called animal ventricosum, from his *swaggy*
and prominent belly. *Brown's Vulgar Errors.*
- SWAIN. *n. f.* [Irish, Saxon and Runick.]
1. A young man.
That good knight would not fo nigh repair,
Himself estranging from their joyance vain,
Whose fellowship seem'd far unfit for warlike *swain*. *F. 2.*
2. A country servant employed in husbandry.
It were a happy life
To be no better than a homely *swain*. *Shak. Henry VI.*
3. A pastoral youth.
Blest *swains*! whose nymphs in ev'ry grace excel;
Blest nymphs! whose *swains* those graces sing so well. *Pope.*

S W A

- SWAINMOTE. *n. f.* [from *swainmote*, law Lat.] A court touching
matters of the forest, kept by the charter of the forest three
times in the year. This court of *swainmote* is as incident to a forest,
as the court of piepowder is to a fair. The *swainmote* is a
court of freeholders within the forest. *Cowell.*
- TO SWEAL. *v. a.* [Irish, Saxon, to kindle.] To waste or
To SWEAL. *v. a.* blaze away; to melt: as, the candle *sweals*.
SWA'LEET. *n. f.* Among the tin-miners, water breaking in
upon the miners at their work. *Bailey.*
- SWA'LOW. *n. f.* [Irish, Saxon.] A small bird of pas-
sage, or, as some say, a bird that lies hid and sleeps in the
winter.
The *swallow* follows not Summer more willingly than we
your lordship. *Shak. Timon of Athens.*
- SWALLOW. *v. a.* [Irish, Saxon; *swalgen*, Dutch.]
1. To take down the throat.
I *swallow* down my spite. *Job vii. 19.*
If little faults
Shall not be wink'd at, how shall we stretch our eye,
Whose capital crimes chew'd *swallows*, and digested,
Appear before us? *Shakespeare's Henry V.*
Men are, at a venture, of the religion of the country; and
must therefore *swallow* down opinions, as silly people do em-
piricks pills, and have nothing to do but believe that they will
do the cure. *Lake.*
2. To receive without examination.
Consider and judge of it as a matter of reason, and not
swallow it without examination as a matter of faith. *Lake.*
3. To engross; to appropriate.
Far be it from me, that I should *swallow* up or destroy. *2Sa.*
Homer excels all the inventors of other arts in this, that he
has *swallowed* up the honour of those who succeeded him. *Pope.*
4. To absorb; to take in; to sink in any abyss; to engulf.
Though you untie the winds, and let them fight
Against the churches, though the yesty waves
Confound and *swallow* navigation up. *Shakespeare.*
I may be pluck'd into the *swallowing* womb
Of this deep pit, poor Bassianus' grave. *Shak. Tit. Andron.*
Death is *swallowed* up in victory. *1 Cor. xv. 54.*
If the earth open her mouth and *swallow* them up, ye shall
understand that these men have provoked the Lord. *Numb. xvi.*
In bogs *swallow'd* up and lost.
He hid many things from us, not that they would *swallow*
up our understanding, but divert our attention from what is
more important. *Deacy of Piety.*
- Nature would abhor
To be forced back again upon herself,
And like a whirlpool *swallow* her own streams. *Dryden and Let's Ode.*
- Should not the sad occasion *swallow* up
My other cares, and draw them all into it? *Addison.*
Cities overturn'd,
And late at night in *swallowing* earthquake funk. *Thomson.*
5. To devour; to destroy.
The necessary provision for life *swallows* the greatest part of
their time.
Corruption *swallow'd* what the liberal hand
Of bounty scatter'd. *Thomson's Autumn.*
6. To be lost in any thing; to be given up.
The priest and the prophet are *swallowed* up of wine. *If.*
- SWALLOW. *n. f.* [from the verb.] The throat; voracity.
Had this man of merit and mortification been called to ac-
count for his ungodly *swallows*, in gorging down the estates of
helpless widows and orphans, he would have told them that it
was all for charitable uses. *South.*
- SWALLOWTAIL. *n. f.* A species of willow.
The shining willow they call *swallowtail*, because of the
pleasure of the leaf. *Bacon's Natural History.*
- SWALLOWWORT. *n. f.* A plant.
SWAMP. The preterite of *swim*.
SWAMP. *n. f.* [from *swamm*, Gothic; *swan*, Saxon; *swamp*,
Dutch; *swanm*, Dutch; *swamp*, Danish; *swamp*, Swedish.]
A marsh; a bog; a fen.
SWAMPY. *adj.* [from *swamp*.] Boggy; fenny.
Swampy fens breathe destructive myriads. *Thomson.*
- SWAN. *n. f.* [Irish, Saxon; *swan*, Danish; *swaan*, Dutch.]
The swan is a large water-fowl, that has a long and very
straight neck, and is very white, excepting when it is young.
Its legs and feet are black, as is its bill, which is like that of
a goose, but something rounder, and a little hooked at the
lower end of it: the two sides below its eyes are black and
shining like ebony. Swans use wings like sails, which catch
the wind, so that they are driven along in the water. *See*

S W A

- feed upon herbs and some sort of grain like a goose, and some
are said to have lived three hundred years. There is a species
of swans with the feathers of their heads, towards the breast,
marked at the ends with a gold colour inclining to red. The
swan is reckoned by Moles among the unclean creatures; but
it was consecrated to Apollo the god of music, because it was
said to sing melodiously when it was near expiring; a tradition
generally received, but fabulous. *Calaneo.*
- With untainted eye
Compare her face with some that I shall show,
And I will make thee think thy *swan* a crow. *Shakespeare.*
Let music sound, while he doth make his choice;
Then if he love, he makes a *swan* like end. *Shakespeare.*
- I have seen a *swan*,
With bootless labour, swim against the tide,
And spend her strength with over-matching waves. *Shakespeare.*
The birds easy to be drawn are plainpates, or water-fowl,
as the mallard, goose, and *swan*. *Pendram on Drawing.*
- The fearful matrons raise a screaming cry,
Old feeble men with fainter groans reply;
A jarring found refuses, and mingles in the sky,
Like that of *swans* returning to the floods. *Dryden.*
- The idea, which an Englishman signifies by the name *swan*,
is a white colour, long neck, black beak, black legs, and whole
feet, and all these of a certain size, with a power of swim-
ming in the water, and making a certain kind of noise. *Locke.*
- SWAN'SKIN. *n. f.* [from *swan* and *skin*.] A kind of soft flannel,
imitating for warmth the down of a swan.
SWAP. *adv.* [ad *swipe*,] to do at a snatch, Islandick.] Hastily;
with hasty violence: as, he did it *swap*. A low word.
TO SWAP. *v. a.* To exchange. See TO SWOP.
- SWARD. *n. f.* [from *svärd*, Swedish.]
1. The skin of bacon.
2. The surface of the ground: whence *green sword*, or *green
sword*.
Water, kept too long, loosens and softens the *sward*, makes
it subject to rustles and coarse grass. *Note on 1st ed.*
- The noon of night was past, when the foe
Came dreading o'er the level *sward*, that lies
Between the wood and the swift streaming Ouse. *A. Philips.*
To plant a vineyard in July, when the earth is very dry
and combustible, plow up the *sward*, and burn it. *Maitimer.*
- SWARE. The preterite of *swear*.
SWARM. *n. f.* [Irish, Saxon; *swarm*, Dutch.]
1. A great body or number of bees or other small animals, par-
ticularly those bees that migrate from the hive.
A *swarm* of bees that cut the liquid sky,
Upon the topmost branch in clouds alight. *Dryden's Æn.*
2. A multitude; a crowd.
From this *swarm* of fair advantages,
You grip'd the general sway into your hand,
Forgot your oath to us at Doncaster. *Shakespeare.*
If we could number up those prodigious *swarms* that had
settled themselves in every part of it, they would amount to
more than can be found. *Addison on Italy.*
- TO SWARM. *v. n.* [Irish, Saxon; *swarmen*, Dutch.]
1. To rise as bees in a body, and quit the hive.
All hands employ'd,
Like labouring bees on a long Summer's day;
Some found the trumpet for the rest to *swarm*. *Dryden.*
Swarm'd on a rotten tick the bees I spy'd. *Gay.*
When bees hang in *swarming* time, they will presently rise,
if the weather hold. *Mortimer's Husbandry.*
2. To appear in multitudes; to crowd; to throng.
The merciles Macdonel,
The multiplying villanies of nature
Do *swarm* upon. *Shakespeare. Macbeth.*
Our superfluous lacqueys, and our peasants,
Who in unnecessary action *swarm*
About our squares of battle. *Shakespeare. Henry V.*
- What a multitude of thoughts at once
Awaken'd in me *swarm*, while I consider
What from within I feel myself, and hear
What from without comes often to my ears. *Milton.*
Then mounts the throne, high plac'd before the shrine;
In crowds around the *swarming* people join. *Dryden's Æn.*
3. To be crowded; to be over-run; to be thronged.
These garbisons you have now planted throughout all Ire-
land, and every place *swarms* with soldiers. *Spenser.*
Her lower region *swarms* with all sort of fowl, her rivers
with fish, and her seas with whole shoals. *Havel.*
Those days *swarmed* with fables, and from such grounds
took hints for fictions, poisoning the world ever after. *Brown.*
4. To breed multitudes.
Not so thick *swarm'd* once the foil
Bedropp'd with blood of Gorgon. *Milton's Paradise Lost.*
- SWART. *n. f.* [from *swart*, Gothic; *swart*, Saxon; *swart*,
Dutch.]
1. Black; darkly brown; tawney.
A nation strange, with visage *swart*,
And courage fierce, that all men did affray,
Through the world then *swarmed* in every part. *F. Queen.*

S W A

- A man
Of *swarth* complexion, and of crabbed hue,
That him full of melancholy did shew. *Fair's Queen.*
Whereas I was black and *swart* before;
With those clear rays which she infus'd on me.
That beauty am I blest with; which you see. *Shak. H. VI.*
No goblin, or *swart* fairy of the mine,
Hath hurtful power o'er true virginity. *Milton.*
2. In *Milton* it seems to signify black; gloomy; malignant.
Ye valleys low,
On whose fresh lap the *swart* star sparsely looks. *Milton.*
- TO SWART. *v. a.* [from the noun.] To blacken; to
dull.
The heat of the sun may *swart* a living part, or even black
a dead or dissolving flesh. *Brown's Vulgar Errors.*
- SWARTILY. *adv.* [from *swarth*.] Blackly; duskily; taw-
nily.
SWARTINESS. *n. f.* [from *swarth*.] Darkness of complexion;
tawnyness.
SWARTHY. *adj.* [See SWART.] Dark of complexion; black;
dusky; tawney.
Set me where, on some pathless plain,
The *swart* Africans complain. *Reverend.*
Though in the torrid climates the common colour is black
or *swart*, yet the natural colour of the temperate climates is
more transparent and beautiful. *Hale's Origin of Mankind.*
Here *swart* Charles appears, and there *Addison.*
His brother with dejected air.
Did they know Caro, our remotest kings
Would pour embattled multitudes about him;
Their *swart* hofs would darken all our plains,
Doubling the native horror of the war, *Addison's Cato.*
And making death more grim.
- SWASH. *n. f.* [A cant word.] A figure, whose circumference
is not round, but oval; and whose moldings lie not at right
angles, but oblique to the axis of the work. *Addison.*
- TO SWASH. *v. n.* To make a great clatter or noise: whence
swashbuckler.
We'll have a *swashing* and a martial outside,
As many other mannish cowards have,
That do outface it with their semblances. *Shakespeare.*
Draw, if you be men: Gregory, remember thy *swashing*
blow. *Shak. Romeo and Juliet.*
- SWASHER. *n. f.* [from *swash*.] One who makes a show of
valour or force of arms.
I have observed these three *swashers*; three such anticks do
not amount to a man. *Shakespeare. Henry V.*
- SWATCH. *n. f.* A swathe. Not in use.
One spreadeth those bands so in order to lie,
As barlie in *swatches* may fill it thereby. *Tupper.*
- SWATH. *n. f.* [from *swath*, Dutch.]
1. A line of grass cut down by the mower.
With tossing and raking, and setting on cox,
Grass, lately in *swaths*, is meat for an ox. *Tupper.*
The strawy Greeks, ripe for his edge,
Fall down before him, like the mower's *swath*. *Shakespeare.*
As soon as your grass is mown, if it lie thick in the *swath*,
neither air nor sun can pass freely through it. *Mortimer.*
2. A continued quantity.
An affection'd ass, that cons state without book, and utters
it by great *swaths*. *Shak. Twelfth Night.*
3. [Saxon, to bind, Saxon.] A band; a fillet.
An Indian comb, a stick whereof is cut into three sharp and
round teeth four inches long: the other part is left for the
handle, adorned with fine straws laid along the sides, and
lapped round about it in several distinct *swaths*. *Grew.*
They *swaddled* me up in my night-gown with long pieces of
linen, which they folded about me, till they had wrapped me
in above an hundred yards of *swathe*. *Addison's Spectator.*
- TO SWATHE. *v. a.* [Irish, Saxon.] To bind, as a child
with bands and rollers.
Thrice hath this Hotspur, Mars in *swathing* cloaths,
This infant warrior, and his enterprizes,
Discomfited great Douglas. *Shak. Henry IV.*
He had two sons; the eldest of them at three years old,
I th' *swathing* cloaths the other, from their nursery.
Were stol'n. *Shakespeare. Cymbeline.*
Their children are never *swathed*, or bound about with any
thing, when they are first born; but are put naked into the bed
with their parents to lie. *Abbot's Description of the World.*
Swath'd in her lap the bold nurse bore him out, *Dryden.*
With olive branches cover'd round about.
Master's feet are *swath'd* no longer,
If in the night too oft he kicks,
Or shows his loco-motive tricks. *Prior.*
- TO SWAY. *v. a.* [from *swaen*, German, to move.]
1. To wave in the hand; to move or wield with facility: as, to
sway the scepter.
Glancing fire out of the iron play'd,
As sparkles from the anvil rise,
When heavy hammers on the wedge are *sway'd*. *Fair's Queen.*